Library

MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1959

★ ★ ★ ★

MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the Middlewich Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1959.

SECTION A

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	1,956 acres
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	6,910
Number of inhabited houses (end 1959)	2,147
Rateable Value (1959)	£84,696
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1958/59)...	£343

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

Live Births -	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	91	46	45
Illegitimate	5	2	3

Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ...	13.89
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor	13.75

Still Births	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	4	4	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	40.00

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	95	53	42

Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ...	13.74
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor	16.35

Death rate of infants under one year of age -

All infants per 1000 live births	20.83
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ...	21.97
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages, including of the lung) ...	15
" " Diphtheria	-
" " Whooping Cough	-
" " Influenza	-
" " Pneumonia	3

The following table compares the main statistics for 1959 with the years 1948-1959 :-

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuberculosis
1948	6,576	19.60	9.12	23.81	10	1
1949	6,587	14.70	9.41	10.30	10	3
1950	6,672	17.38	11.99	51.72	9	1
1951	6,696	16.27	11.49	27.52	14	1
1952	6,798	15.59	10.58	18.86	14	-
1953	6,813	16.87	10.86	-	23	1
1954	6,840	14.32	10.67	30.61	16	-
1955	6,830	13.61	11.42	10.75	15	-
1956	6,880	14.53	11.19	10.00	15	-
1957	6,880	17.58	10.75	24.79	11	-
1958	6,900	11.44	13.76	25.31	17	2
1959	6,910	13.89	13.74	20.83	15	-

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1959

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

		M.	F.	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms of	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-

		M.	F.	Total
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	2	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
16.	Diabetes	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	5	7
18.	Coronary disease, angina	10	1	11
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	8	17	25
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	-	1
22.	Influenza	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	2	1	3
24.	Bronchitis	4	2	6
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	-	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	5	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
34.	All other accidents	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	1	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	TOTAL	53	42	95

Industry:

Messrs. Lewis (Newtown) Ltd., have opened a storage yard for hides etc., within the area.

S E C T I O N B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

for the Area

(A) Provided by the District Council

(1) Staff -

W.S.Slater, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health Hartford Hill Darwin Street Northwich, Cheshire.	(Services shared with the other three Mid-Cheshire Districts and the County Council)

Clerical Staff	1 Person (Whole-time)	(Services shared with the other three Mid-Cheshire Districts)
F. Costello, A.R.San.I Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Insp. of Meat and other Foods	Whole-time Public Health Inspector	(Middlewich Urban District only)

(2) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Middlewich Urban District Council proved adequate during the year. Details of the samples taken are given later in this report.

(3) Environmental Services

Details of the other Services e.g, Public Health and Housing Inspections, Food examination, etc., etc., provided by the Middlewich Urban District Council, are recorded later in this report.

(B) General Hospital Services

(i) Infectious Diseases

Admissions of cases of Infectious Diseases are now spread over the following hospitals: Warrington Isolation Hospital, Monsall Fever Hospital, Crewe Isolation Hospital and Macclesfield Hospital. To which hospitals our cases go depends largely upon the preference of the patient's doctor, and of course, on the availability of hospital beds.

(ii) General Hospital Services

The need for better Hospital services to serve the Mid-Cheshire area as a whole still remains urgent. Probably the increasing mileage covered by the local Mid-Cheshire Ambulance Service (on roads becoming more and more congested) provides the best evidence of this need namely 208,787 miles in 1959 as against 202,106 in 1958 and 194,827 in 1957.

The Joint Mid-Cheshire Hospital Committee in support of their case towards the end of 1959 organised a Petition and this was presented to the Minister by the three Members of Parliament for the Mid-Cheshire Constituencies. One outcome of this Petition resulted in a promise "that Officers of the Ministry would discuss with the Manchester Regional Hospital Board detailed proposals in connection with the proposed new Hospital".

It seems it is now left to the Mid-Cheshire Committee to continue to press their case in the hope that some early real headway may be made.

(C) Provided by the County Council

The Cheshire County Council have officers discharging duties in the Middlewich Urban area under the following services:-

School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare including Milk Food Sales, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g., Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Paediatric, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, Speech Therapy, Residential and Temporary Accommodation, under the County Welfare Services, etc., etc.,

In addition, the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council) provided the following services:-

(a) Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

Satisfactory headway has been made in the Urban District under the "Polio" Vaccination Scheme and many sessions have been held throughout the district at the Clinic, Doctors' Surgeries and Works' Surgeries etc. By the end of the year some 1,600 Middlewich residents up to the age of 25 are estimated as having completed their full course of three injections. At the time of writing the response in the area to the scheme continues to be good.

(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service

The service in the area continued to deal with patients expeditiously though the increasing congestion of the roads and inevitable delays at the bigger Hospitals does from time to time upset the daily time-tables of our vehicles however carefully programmed.

(c) Prevention of Illness - Care and After Care

The call for bigger items of after-care equipment e.g. wheel-chairs, hydraulic hoists, etc., continues to increase year by year.

(d) Domestic Help Service

The service continues to expand year by year and is undoubtedly one of the best means whereby the older people can remain longer in their own home surroundings. Institutional accommodation, however excellent, is for most elderly people but a poor substitute for their own homes.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The Town's Public Water Supply continued to be maintained in a satisfactory manner.

12 bacteriological reports on the town's supply have been furnished by the Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board, all of which proved satisfactory.

In addition, 7 samples of water taken by the Health Department and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination were reported to be satisfactory.

The Public Health Inspector, reports as follows:-

"Closet Accommodation:

There are only 11 pails and one privy closet in the district and these are situated considerable distances from the sewers. All houses have their own separate closet, none being shared.

"Refuse Collection and Disposal:

In February the 18 cubic yard Karrier dual tip refuse collecting vehicle was received, to re-place the small S. & D. Vehicle, which was 13 years old. The introduction of a weekly collection of refuse, which had been hoped for, was not quite achieved due mainly to labour difficulties. The combined sickness of workmen, delay in a new appointment and the transfer of one man to the Surveyor's Department, made us a man short for the whole of the year. Collections, however, at approximately 8 day intervals were obtained, and it is hoped to improve on this in 1960.

One gross of dustbins were purchased for re-sale and re-placements at Council houses. Of this number 79 were sold to householders, the remainder going to Council houses. Generally the standard of dustbins in use is very good. There are no ashpits or privy-middens in the district. All refuse is disposed of at the Croxton Tip and it was possible to obtain free of cost plenty of soil for "cover". The tip consequently was maintained in an excellent condition.

Income from the sale of salvage amounted to £709. 9s. 8d and should show a reasonable profit. The sale of waste-paper (114 tons) is the highest yet recorded and is more than 50% above the National average for towns of under twenty thousand population. The income is less than in previous years due to lower prices prevailing.

"Camping Sites:

A site is used at the "Woodlands", Nantwich Road, which usually contains 3 or 4 vans. A licence for another caravan at the Builders Yard of Mr. C. Earl was approved in 1958 for 3 years.

"Common Lodging Houses:-

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

"Destruction of Rats and Mice:

The Rodent Operator attended a 3-day course of training at Crewe. He has proved highly satisfactory at this work. All premises were inspected at least once in the year and many premises several times. Whilst rodent work takes priority, there is insufficient to warrant his services full time and he helps out with other work in the Health Department. A 10% test baiting of the sewers showed them to be free from infestation. Treatments at business premises are charged for, but private dwellings are treated free of cost.

"Petroleum Storage:

Twenty-four licences were issued in 1959 for the bulk storage of petroleum. Two tanks were renewed and three other tanks, in view of their ages, were subjected to tests which proved satisfactory.

"Pet Animals Act, 1951:

There are now no Pet Shops licenced in the district.

"Recreational Fields and Open Spaces:

The Fountain Fields bowling green, tennis courts and gardens continued to be very popular and were much used. Other open spaces and playfields were adequately maintained.

"Public Conveniences:

The only public conveniences in the town are situated in Leadsmithy Street. A number of discussions have taken place with a view to obtaining sites for further public conveniences.

"Smoke Abatement:

The Alkali Inspectorate have, since 1958, been responsible for control over smoke and grit emission from the furnaces used in the production of salt by the open pan method. A temporary certificate of exemption from the Clean Air Act for one year was renewed for a further year to the Imperial Chemical Industries in respect of two chimneys due to special circumstances.

"Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

The Engineer & Surveyor reports under this heading

"The Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a scheme for phase one of the Council's new sewerage system which will comprise the construction of a new disposal works and the diversion of the Cledford Sewage from the existing system".

FACTORIES INSPECTION

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	41	16	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	41	16	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not sep. for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

Outwork - Nil

HOUSING

Provision of New Houses:

During the year 24 private houses and 20 Council houses were completed as compared with 11 and 16 for the previous year.

Housing in general:

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 2,147 and when considered in conjunction with the population of 6,910, it will be seen that the average number of occupants per house is 3·21. There is very little overcrowding in the district and two cases reported to the Health Committee were rehoused by the Council.

The year saw a substantial increase in the building of houses for sale by private enterprise and when the figures are available for 1960 they will be much higher than for any year since the War. Under the S.D.A. Acts the Council has made loans for the purchase of 90 houses in the past 11 years.

"Slum Clearance:

The Public Health Inspector reports:

"Of the 77 houses in the 5 year scheme only 11 remained to be dealt with at the end of 1959. This makes a total of 109 dwellings condemned and demolished since the end of the War. This figure is equal to 5·08% of the total houses of the district. From these properties 236 adults and 74 children (under 14 years) were re-housed by the Council, which figure represents 4·43% of the total population. In addition 30 adults and 7 children made their own arrangements for re-housing.

Improvement Grants have been made to 42 householders, whilst little use has been made of the Housing Repairs & Rent Act. No Certificates of Dis-repair were requested during the year.

During 1959, Demolition Orders or "undertakings" to demolish when vacant were made or accepted on Nos. 5, 7, 9, 11 White Horse Alley, (Nos. 1 & 3 to be reconditioned), 56, Lewin Street, 21 and 23 Brooks Lane, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 33 Chester Road, (an agreement was reached on the making of Nos. 29 & 31 Chester Road into one house and this work was in progress at the end of the year). A "Closing Order" was made on No. 24, Kinderton Street.

Houses demolished in 1959 were Nos. 23 & 25 Kinderton Street, 1 & 2 Edgefields, 41, Brooks Lane, 9 & 11 Kinderton Street, 33-37 & 39 Chester Road, Nos. 1-3-5-7-9 & 11 Leas Passage.

"Housing Notices complied with:

Defective drains repaired	...	...	19
Repairs to roofs and spouting	...	...	7
Repairs to defective closets	...	...	14
Chimney pots renewed	...	...	3
Repairs to firegrates	...	...	2
Repairs to floors	...	...	2
Renewal of dustbins	...	...	85

It is noted that with the demolition of so many houses a consequent higher standard of housing prevails with the result that fewer complaints of housing defects are being received compared with earlier years.

S E C T I O N E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk

Two dealers are licenced in respect of Pasteurised, Sterilised & T.T. Milks.

All milk sold by retail in the district must be "specially" designated (Pasteurised, Sterilised, or T.T.).

During the year 23 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, with the following results:-

	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Pasteurised	12	-	12	-	-	-
Tuberculin-Tested	2	-	-	-	-	-
T.T. Pasteurised	5	-	5	-	-	-
Sterilised	-	-	-	-	4	-

2 samples were submitted to the Laboratory for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, both with negative results.

(b) Meat

Under this heading the Public Health Inspector reports as follows:-

"There is no Public Abattoir in the district. During the year 264 visits were made on 199 days to the three licensed slaughterhouses to inspect 1,006 cattle, 848 calves, 815 sheep and lambs, and 1,124 pigs. These numbers are much less than previous years due to one slaughterhouse not functioning for the greater part of the year. A 100% inspection of meat was achieved but to do this varying periods on 22 Sundays had to be worked. The Inspectors of the Northwich Rural District very kindly deputised for two weeks during the holidays of the Middlewich Public Health Inspector. Once again it is pleasing to note that despite the large quantities of meat distributed in other districts, no complaints were received. During the year a total of 31 cattle, 10 pigs, 8 sheep and 5 calves were condemned together with much offal.

<u>Offal condemned (Cattle)</u>			
Heads and Tongues	...	...	34
Lungs	...	...	90
Livers	...	...	337
Forequarters	...	...	10
Hindquarters	...	...	6
Briskets	...	...	8
Kidneys	...	...	37
<u>Parts Sheep</u>			
Plucks	...	...	201
<u>Parts Pigs</u>			
Heads	...	...	2
Plucks	...	...	7
Hindquarters	...	...	4

Table of Carcases and Offal

Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	153	853	848	815	1,124
Number inspected	153	853	848	815	1,124
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI:					
Whole carcases condemned	2	15	4	8	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	354	8	201	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	2.61%	43.26%	1.41%	25.63%	1.6%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole carcases condemned	2	11	1	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	125	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.93%	15.94%	.12%	-	.27%
CYSTICERCOSIS:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	3	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticerci	-	.47%	-	-	-

(c) Disposal of Unsound Food:

Condemned meat at slaughterhouses is stained green and allowed to be sold for animal feeding stuff. Condemned tinned foods etc. at shops are collected by the Council workmen and deposited on the tip.

(d) Shops:

Condemnation notes were issued in respect of 15 tins of ham, 2 tins of corned beef, 1 tin of tongue, 2 tins of steak, 32 tins of tomatoes, 1 tin of carrots, 16 tins of peas, 1 tin of beetroot, 1 tin of apples, 3 tins of apricots, 8 lbs. of codfish, 75 lbs. of minced beef.

(e) Ice-cream

There is no ice-cream manufactured in the district and the only ice-cream sold is wrapped or in tubs, cartons, etc.

20 samples of ice-cream taken in the Middlewich Urban District and submitted to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory, proved satisfactory.

(f) Food Premises:

The under-mentioned food premises are in use in the Middlewich area:-

Butchers shops	7
Bakehouses	5
Licensed Slaughterhouses	3
Fish and Chip Shops	4
Fresh Fish Shops	2
(Some butchers also sell fresh fish and some grocers etc. also sell frozen fish)...	
Chocolates and Sweets	8
Grocery Shops	32
(Many grocers also sell some greengrocery and Sweets)	
Greengrocers	7
(Most greengrocers also sell some grocery)	
Distributive Depot catering for confectioners	1
Chemists Shops	2
Public Houses	14
Clubs and Licensed Bars	4
Off Licenses for sale of wines etc. ...	3

Registered under Section 16 Food & Drugs Act 1955

For retail sale of wrapped ice-cream ...	24
For retail sale of sausages, meat pies, etc.	15
Dairies registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54 ...	2

All bakehouses and food premises are regularly inspected and are maintained in a satisfactory condition. It is pleasing to note that the Shop-keepers continue to display the cards issued some years ago prohibiting the taking of dogs into such shops. The keeping of foodstuffs under cover in the various shops continues to increase. The provision of refrigerators continues to increase, three more having been installed during the year. It is gratifying to find shopkeepers generally doing their utmost to protect food on their premises and complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Middlewich Urban District during the year 1959:-

Nature of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Bacon and Vegetables	1	-
Caraway Seeds	1	-
Cheese Spread	1	-
Flour (Plain)	1	-
Ginger (Concentrate)	1	-
Glycerine	1	-
Ice Cream (Dairy)	1	-
Milk (Fresh)	15	1
Orange Drink	1	-
Peaches	1	-
Raspberryade	1	-
TOTAL	25	1

Particulars of Adulterated/Non-Standard Samples

Sample	Analysis	Remarks
Milk	Sub-standard but genuine milk 1.1% deficient in solids-not-fat	No action

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

(1) Only 1 case of Whooping Cough and 10 cases of Measles were notified during the year.

Copies of reports on all pathological specimens submitted by the local doctors to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory are received by me. These are of great value in that immediate preventive measures can be put in hand by the Health Department.

(2) Tuberculosis:

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis:

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Other Forms		Respiratory		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

During the year no pulmonary cases were admitted but one was discharged from Hospital.

The number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:-

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
46	44	45	27	29	28	37	30	30	29	26	28

(3) Mass Radiography:

No visit was paid to the area by the Unit based on Stockport during 1959.

(4) Disinfestation:

Two houses were treated for infestation by fleas during the year.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W.S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

July, 1960.

Hartford Hill,
Darwin Street,
NORTHWICH,
Cheshire.